



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE VIRTUAL FELLOWS PROGRAM PROJECT DESCRIPTION – EUR/WE



This project seeks a Virtual Fellow to serve with the **Office of Western Europe, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (EUR/WE)** as a **European Far-Right Parties Analyst**.

Fellow Location: The Fellow will serve virtually and will not be physically located at the Department of State.

Project Name: Rise of the Far-Right Parties in Europe and Political Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy

Project Description: This project will look at the recent elections in Europe and the presumed successes of the right-wing parties. It should identify what the common issues are for the right, but point to the differences between them that may impede any pan-European coordination. It should challenge or confirm the notion of a “rise” of the right, as well as challenge or confirm the notion that all parties on the right are anti-immigrant, racist, or separatist. The project should also look at the general political picture in several key EUR/WE countries (UK, France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy) to determine whether this “rise” of the right could benefit the center-left or center-right political parties. It should also examine the implications, if any, for several U.S. foreign policy objectives, namely: promoting the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) agreement, strengthening prospects for increased defense/security spending in Europe, responding to the threat of Foreign Fighters, combatting anti-Semitism, and promoting religious freedom.

Potential Fellow Taskings:

- Five-to-ten page policy paper, including a description of the issues and background, graph or info-graphic of where the parties stand on the various issues in the “right-wing” agenda and, what, if any, impacts they will have on U.S. foreign policy in Europe.

For more information, consult these web pages

- [Harold Meyerson - What Caused the Rise of the Euroright, Washington Post, May 29, 2014](#)
- [Foreign Jihadis Fighting in Syria Pose Risk in West, NY Times, May 30, 2014](#)
- [Fringe Parties May Gain in European Parliament Voting, NY Times, May 22, 2014](#)
- [America Needs a Pivot to Europe, NY Times, April 3, 2014](#)
- [A Certain Idea of Disunion, The Economist, May 26, 2014](#)

Program Requirements: The precepts of the Virtual Fellows Program call for Fellows to have a high degree of administrative, professional, or technical knowledge/experience and a minimum of five years of professional experience that is directly applicable to the assigned task.

Project-specific Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities:

- Ability to consult English and foreign language local news media in the focus countries (UK, France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy), election data analysis, European political party knowledge;
- Intermediate to advanced reading ability in French, German, Dutch, or Italian would be a bonus.

Clearance: The Fellow must be a U.S. citizen and must receive a Public Trust determination prior to starting his/her service. The Virtual Fellows Program staff will work with the accepted candidate to obtain the Public Trust determination. (Note: A candidate is NOT required to have a Public Trust determination prior to applying for this project.)

Remuneration: The Virtual Fellow will be appointed to the federal civil service as an intermittent, unpaid consultant. The Department assumes no responsibility for providing any salary or benefits to the Fellow in connection with his/her participation in the Program.